

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE NIACT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 162882

EXDIS, FOR TWINAM AND AMBASSADOR WEST

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PEPR, YE, US

SUBJECT: TWINAM DISCUSSIONS WITH YAR LEADERS

1. FOR TWINAM: WE SEE YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH NEWLY-FORMED YARG AS FURTHERING A NUMBER OF RELATED U.S. POLICY GOALS IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA. WE WISH TO CONVEY TO THE YARG AN APPROPRIATE DEGREE OF U.S. REASSURANCE AND SUPPORT IN THE WAKE OF THE AL-GHASHMI ASSASSINATION. AT THE SAME TIME YOUR VISIT WILL DEMONSTRATE TO THE SAG AND THE YAR-- AND ALSO TO THE PDRY AND THE SOVIETS--THAT THE U.S. IS RESPONDING TO THE THREAT BOTH SAG AND THE YAR SEE IN THE GHASHMI ASSASSINATION. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT YOUR DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE YARG WILL HELP FORESTALL PRECIPITANT ACTION BY THE SAUDIS OR THE YAR AND POSSIBLY DISCOURAGE THE PDRY FROM ADVENTURISM AGAINST ITS NEIGHBORS.

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2. WHEN YOU DELIVER PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER YOU SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO CHAIRMAN AL-ARASHI AND OTHER YAR LEADERS:

-- THE U.S. LEARNED OF THE ASSASSINATION OF FORMER PRESIDENT AL-GHASHMI WITH SADNESS AND SHOCK. AT THE SAME TIME WE BECAME DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SECURITY OF THE

YAR;

-- EVEN BEFORE THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT, THEREFORE, SECRETARY VANCE IN CONVEYING HIS CONDOLENCES TO FOREIGN MINISTER AL-ASNAJ EMPHASIZED THE CONSTANCY AND THE DEPTH OF OUR CONCERN FOR THE YAR;

-- THE U.S. HAS DECIDED TO BENEFIT FROM YOUR PRESENCE IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA TO OBTAIN AT FIRST HAND THE VIEWS OF THE NEW YARG ABOUT THE YAR'S FUTURE PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO THE SECURITY OF THE REGION AND TO DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PDRY;

-- AS CHAIRMAN ARASHI IS AWARE THE U.S. HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED THE YAR IN ACHIEVING ITS GOALS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY. WE INTEND TO MAINTAIN THIS SUPPORT DURING THIS CRITICAL PERIOD;

-- AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN OUR LONGSTANDING FRIENDSHIP HAS BEEN THE TRILATERAL MILITARY SUPPLY AND TRAINING RELATIONSHIP INVOLVING SAUDI ARABIA. WE BELIEVE THIS RELATIONSHIP SERVES OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS WELL AND UNDERLINES THE THREE NATIONS' COMMITMENT TO REGIONAL COOPERATION;

-- WE ARE CURRENTLY CONSIDERING WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN
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IMPROVE AND STRENGTHEN EXISTING PROGRAMS UNDER THIS TRI-LATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

-- YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT U.S. LEADERS HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE RAPIDITY AND UNITY WITH WHICH THE NEW YAR LEADERSHIP HAS MANAGED THE GOVERNMENTAL TRANSITION FOLLOWING THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT AL-GHASHMI;

-- WE UNDERSTAND THE BITTERNESS AND ANGER YAR LEADERS FEEL TOWARD THE PDRY FOR ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT AL-GHASHMI, WHICH RESULTED IN YAR BREAKING RELATIONS WITH PDRY. WE TOO CONDEMN THIS ACT OF TERRORISM AND THE PDRY'S CONTINUED USE OF THIS IN ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. WE HOPE THAT YAR LEADERS, TOGETHER WITH OTHER PENINSULA STATES, CAN WORK EARNESTLY TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN THEIR SECURITY. THAT SECURITY WOULD NOT BE ENHANCED BY THE USE OF COUNTER-VIOLENCE.

3. FOR JIDDA: YOU SHOULD BRIEF SAG ON NATURE OF TWINAM

MISSION DRAWING ON ABOVE TALKING POINTS AS APPROPRIATE.

YOU SHOULD ALSO STRESS WE INTEND TO KEEP IN CLOSEST
POSSIBLE TOUCH WITH THE SAG ABOUT EVENTS IN YAR AND
PDRY AND IN THIS CONNECTION WOULD BE PARTICULARLY
INTERESTED IN LEARNING SAG VIEWS ON HOW WE MIGHT
STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE EXISTING PROGRAMS OF OUR TRI-
LATERAL MILITARY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE YAR. VANCE

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